

Steeped in tradition

This business
is always ready
for tea time

By Paula R. Hastings
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DUXBURY — At a recent children's tea party, Lisa Salomone, dressed in her white apron, steeped the loose tea leaves as usual, but had forgotten to bring a strainer to remove them before pouring the brew into cups.

"I didn't know how I was going to solve that one, until a mother of one of the girls gave me a new, unused knee-high stocking, and I put a piece of it over the teapot spout," Salomone says.

Salomone, of 61 Temple St., recently started catering tea parties for adults and children.

A variety of menus caters to breakfast, bridal shower, country garden, sweets, and classic English tea parties for adults, and children's tea parties as well.

A former interior designer, she uses fine china bought from antique shops, and formal flatware, napkins and serving dishes for her catered affairs. She decorates her foods with edible flowers — pansies and mint.

Her business card is unique: it's a cut-out photo of a bone china teacup.

Salomone says a tea party is a relaxing and unusual party for



Staff photo/Paula R. Hastings

Tea, anyone? — Lisa Salomone has a new business: catering tea parties.

civilized in an uncivilized world," she says.

The British tea tradition supposedly began when the Duchess of Bedford ate scones and cakes in secret to satisfy her afternoon hunger, Salomone says. Learning about the secret, and finding it fashionable, noble ladies observed the ritual which has gone on to become a national pastime.

She runs the operation, begun in the spring, out of her house.

Salomone also sells tea baskets as gifts. Baskets can include various teas, scones, shortbread, imported lemon curd and clotted

gifts, she says.

Because town bylaws prevent her selling homemade foods from her home, Salomone buys her baked goods from local purveyors who use authentic recipes. She also subcontracts flower arrangements, invitations and linen rentals.

The business is taking off, Salomone says, and her dreams with it.

"One day, I'd like to open a tea room and design fabrics for table settings," she says.

Luck has been with her, she